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Module ID#: 38

Course: Course- Working With the IACUC (Non-VA version)

Lesson: Alternatives

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Page 7, Written Alternatives Requirements

If you need help with database searches for alternatives, there are several good options now.

- **ALTBIB:** Bibliography on Alternatives to Animal Testing. This NIH website is specifically designed to help you perform database searches on alternatives. The site is available to all users at <http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/altbib.html>. It helps to properly format searches in PubMed, provides links to live PubMed searches on selected animal testing topics. It also displays links to other important sites on alternatives. Click [here](#) for brief instructions on using the site.
- **University of California Center for Animal Alternatives.** This website offers a variety of pre-formatted searches of multiple databases. Click [here](#) for the home page or [here](#) for the page listing the pre-formatted searches.
- **Altweb.** The Altweb website is run by the Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing ([CAAT](#)) and provides extensive information on alternatives. The site includes searches that address [pain management](#) and [humane endpoints](#).
- **Animal Welfare Information Center ([AWIC](#)).** AWIC was formed as part of the USDA by a Congressional mandate to ensure that scientists using animals could receive help in searching for alternatives. AWIC has trained professionals that can help you decide which databases are most appropriate, and which search strategy works best for each database. AWIC also has extensive literature on alternatives, and strategies to reduce pain and distress in research animals. Click [here](#) to see a variety of useful white papers on specific procedures commonly used in animal research.
- **Medical Librarian.** You can also consult your local medical librarian for assistance. Some institutions even include a medical librarian on the IACUC to provide expert guidance in this area.



*Animal Welfare
Information Center*

References

Short instructions on using the **ALTBIB** site:

1. Type search terms in box (for example, "tumor and mice")
2. Mark the **PubMed** option under the search box and mark the "2000-to present." Do not mark the "**Animal** use alternatives".
3. Click on search.
- 4. The search will be performed by combining the terms added in the box (e.g. tumor and mice) with a lengthy list of "animal alternatives" terms, thus facilitating the task of applying appropriate terms.
- i 5. A new PubMed window will open, displaying the search results.
6. To document your search, it is highly recommended that you print the hits with abstracts to document that you did the search, or save the hits as an HTML or other **file**.
7. If you receive too many or too few hits, return to ALTIBIB to expand or narrow the search.
- S. There are also very convenient pre-formatted searches (e.g. "transgenic mouse model") near the bottom of the page.

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